(ग) निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों को परिसीमित करने के लिए पारिणामिक कदम उठाने का प्रश्न, जिसमें परिसीमन आयोग का गठन भी है, संविधान (अस्सीवां संशोधन) विधेयक, 1996, जो लोक सभा के समक्ष लंबित है और जो नए परिसीमन के लिए उपबंध करने के लिए है, अधिनियम, बन जाता है, उसके पश्चात ही उठेगा।

Statement of Chief Justice of India on Jain Hawala case

1530. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Justice of India that "the judges of the Supreme Court were under pressure to withdraw from the Bench hearing the Jain Hawala case"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government attach utmost importance to the independence of Judiciary and would not like it to be compromised at any cost. No one from the Government was authorised to speak to the judges in the matter.

Development of Tourism in Punjab

1531. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by the Government for the development of tourism in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) the details of various tourist spots to be developed in different parts of the country, name-wise/State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (c) Steps being taken by the Government for the development of tourism include improvement of infrastructural facilities, human resource development and publicity and promotion. It is achieved by providing financial assistance to State Governments, encouraging private investment, undertaking promotional activities and creating training infrastructure. However, the development of tourism in any particular State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned.

For the development of tourism in Punjab, the Department of tourism during the last three years has sanctioned 26 projects amounting to Rs. 305.87 lakhs.

Vacation of suites in Samrat Hotel by ITDC Chief

1532. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked ITDC Chief to vacate 6 hotel suites occupied by him in Samrat Hotel;

(b) if so, the reasons for lossing Rs. 60,000 as rent per day by not utilising the suites for commercial purpose; and

(c) action proposed against the guilty officials;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rooms occupied by C&MD, ITDC in Samrat Hotel cannot be utilised for commercial purposes because of security reasons and, therefore, the reported loss of Rs. 60,000 per day is only national.

(c) the occupation of the subject rooms in Samrat Hotel was with the prior approval of the Government.

Profit made by ITDC

1533. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the profit made by ITDC during 1996-97;

(b) the reasons for decrease in foreign exchange earnings during the period; and

(c) measures taken to boost foreign exchange earning by ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA):(a) During 1996-97 ITDC earned net profit before tax of Rs. 74.34 crores which is provisional subject to aduit.

(b) The decline in foreign exchange earnings of ITDC is attributed mainly to decrease in foreign guest nights stayed in ITDC hotels which was largely due to adverse publiciy in media/press of the outbreak of dengue in Delhi.

(c) The steps taken/being to increase foreign exchange earnings *inter-alia* include:

— Participation in International Travel Marts.

— Hosting of Familiarization Tours of travel agents/writers etc.

— Extending brochure support to foreign tour operators.

—Featuring on the Amadeous Computerised Reservation System.

— Indroduction of Home paging facility on the Internet.

—Holding food festivals.

Increase in wage bill of ITDC

1534. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of increase in wage bill of ITDC due to wage revisions, recruitments, promotions, transfers and other non-plan expenditure during the past three years;

(b) what is the percentage of wage bill to total turnover;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce voluntary retirement scheme to reduce the wage bill of ITDC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) The total wage bill which was Rs. 61.46 crores for the year 1994-95 increased to Rs. 78.50 crores (provisional) for the year 1996-97 representing an increase of 27.7%.

(b) The percentage of wage bill to turnover for the year 1994-95 was 26.05% which has gone down to 24.96% (provisional) for the year 1996-97.

(c) and (d) Presently no such proposal is under consideration of ITDC menagement.

Steps to restore popularity of Jammu and Kashmir Tourism

1535. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to restore popularity of Jammu and Kashmir tourism including the Ladakh region; and

(b) the investement proposed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) the steps taken by the Central Government to revive tourism in Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh region, are:

(1) relief to tourism related private units on unpaid loans;

(2) interest subsidy for 10 years on further loans;